

Medication Information Card

Medroxyprogesterone Intramuscular (me-DROKS-ee-proe-JES-te-rone)

Other names for this medication

Depo-Provera[®]

How this medication is used

This medication is a hormone that stops the ovaries from releasing eggs. It is a form of birth control that prevents pregnancy for 12 weeks. It is used by women who:

- have side effects from estrogen in birth control pills, such as nausea and headaches
- are over the age of 35 and smoke
- have trouble remembering to take birth control pills
- take medication that stops the birth control pill from working
- have painful or heavy menstrual periods
- have a history of endometriosis

Advantages

- you can breastfeed
- you can take medication that stop oral birth control pills from working
- you do not need to take a pill everyday

How this medication is used (continued)

Disadvantages

- you may have little or no bleeding, irregular bleeding or spotting between needles of Depo-Provera®
- you must go to the doctor's office or clinic every 12 weeks for your next needle
- you may have a delay in fertility for 1 to 18 months after stopping Depo-Provera®
- possible increased risk of osteoporosis

Talk to your doctor about your personal risk.

How to take this medication

This medication is injected into your buttock or arm muscle. It must be given every 12 weeks to be as effective as possible.

Be sure to take enough calcium and vitamin D while taking this medication. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about this.

While taking this medication you may notice

- weight gain
- swollen ankles
- breast tenderness
- mood changes

To avoid weight gain, follow a healthy diet and exercise plan. Talk to your doctor or dietitian for help.

You should not use Depo-Provera if you

- are pregnant
- have undiagnosed vaginal bleeding
- have cancer of the breast
- have liver disease
- have sensitivity or allergy to Depo-Provera®
- have trouble getting to your doctor's office or clinic every 12 weeks
- do not want a needle

Contact your doctor if you notice

- sudden severe headache
- blurred vision
- severe pain in lower leg
- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes
- changes in your breast self examination